

Appl. No. : 10/614,731
Filed : July 3, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please Cancel Claims 20 through 51.

1. **(Original)** A process for making thermoplastic resin coated articles, the process comprising:

applying an aqueous solution or dispersion of a first thermoplastic resin on the outer surface of an article substrate by dip, spray, or flow coating;

withdrawing the article from the dip, spray, or flow coating at a rate so as to form a first coherent film;

curing/drying the coated article until the first film is substantially dried so as to form a first coating;

optionally applying an aqueous solution or dispersion of a second thermoplastic resin on the outer surface of an article substrate by dip, spray, or flow coating;

withdrawing the article from the dip, spray, or flow coating at a rate so as to form a second coherent film;

curing/drying the coated article until the second film is substantially dried so as to form a second coating;

wherein at least one of the first and second thermoplastic resins comprises a thermoplastic epoxy resin.

2. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 wherein the curing/drying of the coating comprising a thermoplastic epoxy resin is performed so as to form an article that exhibits substantially no blushing or whitening when exposed to water.

3. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 further comprising the application of one or more additional coating layers to said article.

4. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 wherein at least one coating layer is crosslinked to provide chemical or mechanical abuse resistance.

5. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the article substrate comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyesters, polyolefins, polycarbonates, polyamides and acrylics.

6. **(Original)** The process of claim 5, wherein the article substrate comprises amorphous and/or semi crystalline polyethylene terephthalate.

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7. **(Original)** The process of claim 5, wherein said article comprises a preform.
8. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 which further comprises the removal of any excess material between the coating and curing/drying steps.
9. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 wherein said curing/drying source is selected from one or more of the group consisting of infrared heating, electron beam processing, forced air, flame curing, gas heaters, UV radiation, such that the coating is formed without undesirably heating the article substrate.
10. **(Original)** The process of claim 9 wherein said curing/drying source is infrared heating and forced air.
11. **(Original)** The process of claim 10 wherein the temperature of the forced air is between about 10°C to about 50°C and sufficient to prevent undesirable shrinkage of article while maximizing the removal of liquids without prematurely sealing the article's outer surface so as to entrap unexpelled liquid.
12. **(Original)** The process of claim 9 wherein said curing/drying source is infrared heating.
13. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 wherein said article is rotated to achieve consistent coating and curing/drying.
14. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic resin coatings comprise one or more of the following characteristics: gas-barrier protection, UV protection, scuff resistance, blush resistance, and/or chemical resistance.
15. **(Original)** The process of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic epoxy resin coating comprises phenoxy resins.
16. **(Original)** The process of claim 15 wherein said phenoxy resin coating comprises hydroxy-phenoxyether polymers.
17. **(Original)** The process of claim 16 wherein said hydroxy-phenoxyether polymer coating comprises polyhydroxyaminoether copolymers made from resorcinol diglycidyl ether, hydroquinone diglycidyl ether, bisphenol A diglycidyl ether, or mixtures thereof.
18. **(Original)** The process of claim 15 wherein said solution or dispersion of the thermoplastic epoxy resin comprises organic acid salts made from the reaction of

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polyhydroxyaminoethers with phosphoric acid, lactic acid, malic acid, citric acid, acetic acid, glycolic acid and/or mixtures thereof.

19. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein said third coating is an acrylic, phenoxy, latex, or epoxy coating that is crosslinked during the drying process.

20. through 51. (Canceled)